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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,990	03/19/2001	Gavin Peacock	PALM-3603	9598

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LOAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2126

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,990

Applicant(s)

PEACOCK ET AL.

Examiner

Loan B Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (6298370) (hereinafter Tang et al.).

4. As per claim 1, Tang et al. teaches a method for allowing multiple applications to cooperatively access a resource, said method comprising the steps of:

a) registering a callback instruction for a first application using said resource (e.g. col. 26 line 16-21);

b) invoking said callback instruction to notify said first application of a request from a second application for said resource (e.g. col. 26 line 22-29); and

c) yielding said resource to said second application provided said first application grants said request (e.g. col. 26 line 30-33).

5. As per claims 8 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

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6. As per claim 2, Tang et al. teaches the method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said resource comprises interface circuitry coupled to multiple ports (e.g. col. 104 line 16).

7. As per claim 3, Tang et al. teaches the method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of registering said first application as a passive application, wherein a passive application defines said callback instruction (e.g. col. 117 line 65-67).

8. As per claims 9 and 16 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

9. As per claim 4, Tang et al. teaches the method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step b) is performed responsive to said request from said second application (e.g. col. 131 line 15-32).

10. Claim 5. The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing notice to said first application that said second application is finished using said resource, said notice indicating said resource is available (e.g. col. 131 line 32-42).

11. As per claims 12 and 19 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

12. Claim 6. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) further comprises the steps of:

c1) closing said resource for said first application (e.g. col. 53 line 65 and col. 55 line 36); and

c2) conducting procedures for shutting down said first application (e.g. col. 61 line 24).

13. As per claims 13 and 20 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

14. Claim 7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein a response granting said request is a Boolean true, and wherein a response denying said request is a Boolean false (e.g. col. 57 line 25).

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15. As per claims 14 and 21 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

16. Claim 10. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step d) further comprises the step of receiving from said first application a response denying said request (e.g. col. 35 line 3-8).

17. As per claims 17 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

18. Claim 11. The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step d) further comprises the step of returning an error message to said second application when said serial port is not yielded to said second application (e.g. col. 34 line 66 and col. 43-44).

19. As per claims 18 is rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

20. Claim 15. A portable computer system comprising:

a bus, a serial port coupled to said bus, a processor coupled to said bus (e.g. col. 103-104); and

a memory coupled to said bus, said memory comprising instructions for implementing a method for allowing multiple applications residing on said computer system to cooperatively access said serial port, said method comprising the steps of:

a) opening said serial port for a first application, wherein said step of opening comprises registering a callback instruction for said first application (e.g. col. 26 line 16-21);

b) receiving a request for said serial port from a second application (e.g. col. 26 line 22-29);

c) invoking said callback instruction responsive to said request, wherein said step of invoking comprises the steps of:

c1) sending notice to said first application of said request (e.g. col. 25 line 47-54);
and

c2) receiving from said first application a response to said notice (e.g. col. 25 line 56-61); and

d) yielding said serial port to said second application provided said response from said first application grants said request and otherwise maintaining said serial port for said first application (e.g. col. 26 line 30-33).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Loan B. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0358. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Loan B. Nguyen
September 24, 2003



JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100